

SECOND REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON RETRENCHMENT
IN THE PUBLIC EXPENDITURE.

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.



LONDON:

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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC RETRENCHMENT.

TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF HIS MAJESTY'S TREASURY.

In view of the pressure of Parliamentary business upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer, we were invited to turn our attention to the expenditure on Irish services under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary. Mr. J. P. Boland, M.P., Sir J. Lonsdale Bart., M.P., and Mr. W. Kavanagh consented to join us for the purpose; but the Irish Nationalist Party subsequently decided not to nominate any members to serve on the Committee, and Mr. Boland, therefore, did not attend any meeting.

We have had three meetings, at which we had the advantage of hearing general evidence on the Irish services. We were informed of the steps taken since the outbreak of war by the Treasury and the Irish Government to secure economies by administrative action, and we understand that, in the result, certain savings have already been effected. We believe that further savings are possible, but large economies cannot be carried into effect without legislation likely to prove contentious.

On consideration of the whole position, therefore, we felt that the prospects of economy resulting from our labours were not sufficient to justify a prolonged inquiry, and we arrived at the conclusion that the best course would be to leave the special questions of economies in the Departments in Ireland to be dealt with by the Irish Government and the Treasury, and we hope that, in connexion with the forthcoming Estimates, they will carry still further the scrutiny of expenditure which has already taken place. The general questions can be dealt with by the Committee when it resumes its sittings on the services common to the United Kingdom.

(Signed) AUGUSTINE BIRRELL (*Chairman*).
MIDDLETON.
H. T. BAKER.
LEO CHIOZZA MONEY.
J. FRANCIS MASON.
EVELYN CECIL.
J. H. THOMAS.
GASPARD FARRER.
HAROLD COX.
JOHN B. LONSDALE.
WALTER KAVANAGH.

C. L. STOCKS }
F. W. LEVIN ROSS } *Joint Secretaries.*
6th December 1915.